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PROGRAMME PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Country, intercountry and global programmes

FIRST PROGRAMME FOR THE PACIFIC MULTI-ISLANDS

Programme period	Resources	$
1993-1996	Net IPF	4 407 000
	Estimated share of regional IPF	878 000
	Total	5 285 000

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I. BACKGROUND

1. In paragraph 8 of its decision 88/31 of 1 July 1988, the Governing Council allocated $2.5 million to establish a Pacific multi-island (PMI) indicative planning figure (IPF) to reinforce the larger Pacific subregional programme, which is part of the intercountry programme for Asia and the Pacific. Although programmed at the mid-term of the fourth programming cycle, the projects funded out of the $2,934,000 adjusted allocation contributed effectively to the achievement of the goals of the subregional programme, i.e., national capacity-building for sound environmental planning and management, promotion of the private sector, through small industry development and promotion of the participation of women, youth and NGOs in development.

2. For the fifth cycle, $3.5 million was allocated to the Pacific multi-island programme at the thirty-seventh session of the Governing Council. For these resources to reinforce the Pacific subregional programme for the fifth cycle, it was proposed at the meeting of Aid Coordinators of Pacific Island Governments (Mini-MAC) organized by UNDP in June 1991 for the purpose of planning the programme, that PMI resources could be used to support the new subregional programme in areas consistent with the purpose of the multi-island IPF. Mini-MAC identified the following four main programme themes for the programme: equitable and sustainable human development, natural resource management and environmental protection, economic and financial management and reform and intraregional cooperation in transport and in disaster mitigation. Representatives of Pacific organizations, donors and United Nations bodies also participated in Mini-MAC.

3. In June 1992, the Governing Council approved the programme for the fifth cycle as an integral part of the intercountry programme for Asia and the Pacific. The proposal now before the Council relates to use of PMI resources for the fifth cycle to support equitable and sustainable human development. The proposed programme will integrate some of the activities initiated during the fourth cycle with regard to this theme.

II. THE PROGRAMME

A. Development situation, objectives and strategies

4. The people of the Pacific islands had been able to maintain a balanced and sustainable life style in a mixed subsistence/cash economy in the context of a stable social fabric built on an extended family system and a village-community structure and had managed to avoid extreme poverty and large-scale deterioration of well-being. Recently, however, a number of problems have emerged that seriously affect the prospects for human development.

5. Rapid population growth combined with practices prejudicial to sustainable development is putting increasing pressure on meagre natural resources and fragile island ecosystems. Migration to urban centres is contributing to a rapid rise in unemployment and under-employment especially among young people. It is also contributing to the over-population of some urban centres, where

squatter neighbourhoods are emerging and to a reduction of the rural labour force. The social fabric has been gradually deteriorating.

6. A decrease in productivity and in local food production coupled with a growing preference for and dependence on imported foods is affecting the health and nutrition of the population and is making inroads into the already weak foreign exchange position. The remotest islands and rural communities are becoming increasingly dependent on central-government and donor support for basic social services and infrastructure; however, such support cannot maintain sufficient services to meet the growing demand.

7. The quality of basic education and skills training in these same islands and communities is low and unsuited to the goal of a higher standard of living for them. Women continue to occupy a marginal social and economic position and are often kept from participating in the cash economy; and rural women are labouring with an added burden of work due to the exodus of able-bodied youth to the cities and abroad.

8. In short, a large segment of the population is becoming increasingly marginalized and must urgently be brought back into the mainstream of development through support for increased community participation in the national development effort.

9. The Pacific island Governments are seriously concerned about the long-term implications of the trends described above. National development policies and plans place the highest priority on such problems, and national efforts to tackle them are supported by many donor-financed technical cooperation programmes, including the Pacific multi-island programme. There is, however, need to reinforce this support if the trends are to be reversed. The support possibilities offered by other sectoral programmes could be pulled together in a focused, systemic manner. Also the nature of the complex issues involved should be clarified and a study should be made to determine the optimal development strategies and options available to the Pacific islands in order to lay a sound and rational foundation for development.

B. Proposals for UNDP cooperation

10. The objective of the proposed subprogramme for equitable and sustainable human development to be funded from PMI resources is to support the efforts of the Pacific island countries to encourage development at community level, with special reference to communities and remote islands and in rural areas and in particular to the women and unemployed youth in such communities. This support should be aimed at enhancing capacity at community level to plan, initiate, manage and sustain local development processes.

11. For this purpose, a number of well-defined target-group projects will be formulated in selected communities and localities to address their priority development needs. A participatory approach will be adopted for identifying these needs and designing community development projects for PMI support. Community development approaches and tools developed and tested under various projects in the fourth cycle of the Pacific subregional programme will be

assessed with a view to their application. In some cases, the subprogramme will build on activities already initiated under other schemes.

12. The subprogramme will be complemented, and its overall objective reinforced, by the Pacific Sustainable Human Development Initiative, which is being promoted jointly by the three field offices in the subregion. This is a broad-based exploratory and advocacy initiative aimed at forming consensuses and seeking rational bases for policies and actions designed to promote sustainable human development. In the first phase, the Initiative, which is already operational, the first of a series of Pacific sustainable human development reports based on objective indicators, studies and debates will be issued. It will draw on the best thinking within and outside the Pacific subregion in an attempt to clarify development constraints, explore appropriate options and strategies for the subregion and propose policy priorities and actions for consideration at a regional meeting of high-level policy makers.

13. It is proposed that in addition to the $3.4 million to be allocated to this subprogramme from the PMI and subregional IPF resources for the fifth cycle, support from other sectoral programmes will be mobilized, especially those under the Pacific subregional programme. Depending on the development potential and requirements of the target community, subprogrammes could include income-generating activities in agriculture, fisheries and small industries or activities to meet basic needs, such as water and sanitation, health and nutrition and basic education and skills training. The subprogramme will be implemented in close collaboration with the GEF-supported South Pacific Regional Biodiversity Conservation Programme, under which practices fostering sustainable development will be promoted at community level.

14. An important aim of the subprogramme in its first phase will be to establish several successful community development projects to demonstrate the viability of this approach in clear terms to target groups. This should help to stimulate further government and donor support for repeating the same projects in other communities in the next phase.

C. Coordination and collaboration

15. A programme coordination mechanism will be created to address the overall objective outlined above in a systematic, integrated way. Joint programming and other forms of collaboration with UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and UNCDF (for the four LDCs in the subregion) and other bilateral and multilateral donors active in the Pacific will be vigorously promoted by UNDP field offices and through the programme activities. This is in line with the expressed wish of the island countries and with the policy adopted at the Pacific Meeting of Aid Coordinators on the Fifth Cycle Programme, which advocated a collaborative programme approach by donors.

D. Expected results

16. The expected results of this programme include: (i) increased capacity on the part of the participating communities to plan and implement their own development activities and to implement projects on a self-sustaining basis;

(ii) a demonstration of the viability of the community development approach and its increasing application with expanded government and donor support; (iii) the formulation and adoption of effective policies in support of sustainable human development.

E. Implementation and management arrangements

17. Cost-effective modalities, such as recourse to UNVs as change agents and to short-term consultancies available from UNISTAR, will be utilized to the maximum extent for managing the programme which is especially amenable to TCDC in the form of exchange of information, experience and expertise.

18. Close cooperation will be established with Pacific regional organizations active in the fields covered by this programme, including the South Pacific Commission (SPC), the Forum Secretariat (FS) and the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme, with a view to the gradual regionalization of its management and operation.

19. As part of the Pacific subregional programme for the fifth cycle the PMI programme will be subject to mid-term review.

Annex I

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

I. ESTIMATED RESOURCES TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR PROGRAMMING

(Dollars)

Carry-over from fourth cycle IPF	2 007 000	
Fifth cycle IPF	3 500 000	
Estimated expenditure in 1992	(1 100 000)	
Subtotal IPF		4 407 000
Subregional IPF contribution from regional IPF	878 000	
Project cost-sharing (third party)	0	
Programme cost-sharing	0	
Subtotal cost-sharing		878 000
Total		5 285 000

II. ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES BY AREA OF CONCENTRATION

Area of concentration	IPF	Regional IPF	Total	Percentage of total resources
Equitable and sustainable human development	2 522 000	878 000	3 400 000	64.3
Subtotal	2 522 000	878 000	3 400 000	64.3
Assistance outside the main areas of focus*	1 010 000	0	1 010 000	19.1
Unprogrammed reserve	875 000	0	875 000	16.6
Total	4 407 000	878 000	5 285 000	100

* Committed to projects initiated during the fourth cycle utilizing PMI resources.

III. COMPLEMENTARY ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER SOURCES

		(Dollars)
A. UNDP-administered funds		
SPR	-	
UNCDF	*	
UNSO	-	
UNIFEM	*	
UNRFNRE	-	
TSS-1	200 000	
Subtotal		200 000
B. Other United Nations resources		
JCGP participating agencies		
UNFPA	*	
UNICEF	*	
WFP	-	
IFAD	-	
Other United Nations agencies (non-UNDP financed)		
WHO	*	
Global Environment Facility	-	
Subtotal		-
Total non-core and other United Nations resources		200 000
C. Non-United Nations resources		-
Total		200 000

* To be determined.

Annex II

PROGRAMME MATRIX a/

Area of concentration	Area of focus: Poverty eradication and grass-roots participation in development	Environment and natural resource management	Management development	TCDC	Transfer and adaptation of technology	Women in development
I. Equitable and sustainable human development	*	*		*	*	*

a/ Asterisk indicates major linkage only.